

### **REMARKS**

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-3, 5-20, 22-30, 32-56, 58-71, 73, and 74 are pending. Claim 31 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1, 2, 32, 33, 40, 41, 43, 45, 56, 60, and 71 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

### **Reasons for Entry of Amendments / Allowable Subject Matter**

The Examiner states that claims 1-3, 5-20, 22-30, 32-56, 58-71, 73, and 74 are allowed. The sole rejected claim of this application, claim 31, is canceled by this Amendment.

It is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered into the Official File in view of the fact that the amendments to the claims automatically place the application in condition for allowance.

In the alternative, if the Examiner does not agree that this application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purpose of appeal. This Amendment reduces the issues on appeal by canceling rejected claim 31. This Amendment was not presented at an earlier date in view of the fact that Applicants did not fully appreciate the Examiner's position until the Final Office Action was reviewed.

Therefore, all claims of the present application are in condition for allowance.

**Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)**

Claim 31 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Moon et al. (U.S. 5,589,601).

This rejection are respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance the prosecution of the present application, claim 31 is canceled.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) are respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

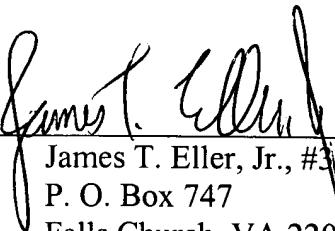
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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